Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota holds the health and safety of its young adults as a chief concern; and,

Whereas, Text messaging has become extremely popular with half of all American teenagers sending between 21 and 70 texts per day; and,

Whereas, Ninety percent of American teenagers expect a reply to a text message within five minutes; and,

Whereas, Texting takes one's eyes off the road for an average of five seconds or the length of a football field when traveling at 55 mph; and,

Whereas, In an AT&T survey, 43 percent of American teenage drivers admitted to texting while driving even though 97 percent know it is dangerous; and,

Whereas, A Virginia Tech study showed those who send text messages while driving are 23 times more likely to crash; and,

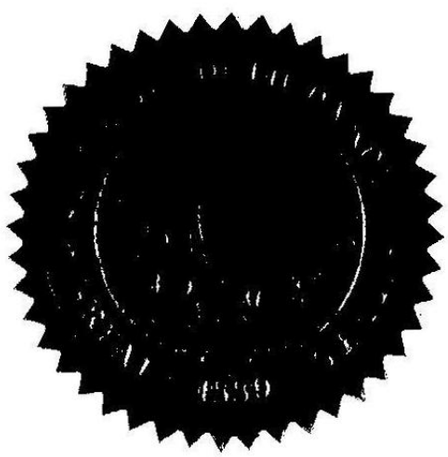
Whereas, The National Safety Council estimates that more than 100,000 times each year, an automobile crashes and people are injured or die because the driver was texting while driving; and,

Whereas, A driver that sends a text message while driving not only jeopardizes his or her safety, but also the safety of passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers; and,

Whereas, Education, public awareness, and individual responsibility are the keys to changing behavior:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 19, 2012, as

NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING DAY



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State